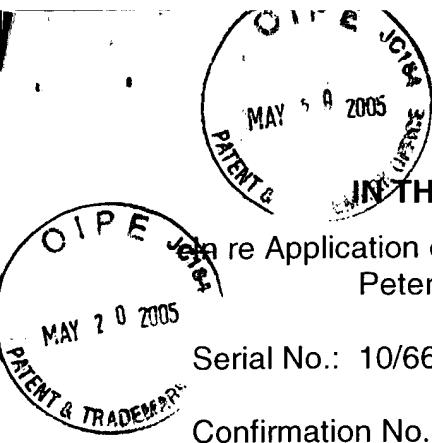


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



re Application of:  
Peter Ellington

Serial No.: 10/663,351

Confirmation No.: 1597

Filed: September 12, 2003

For: EXPANDABLE COUPLING

MAIL STOP AMENDMENTS  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

§  
§  
§ Group Art Unit: 3679  
§  
§  
§ Examiner: Erik K. Nicholson  
§  
§ Customer No. 36735  
§

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 CFR 1.8	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on <u>18 May</u> , 2005.	
William B. Patterson Typed Name	<u>William B. Patterson</u> Signature
34,102 Reg. No. if applicable	(713)623-4844 Telephone Number

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED JANUARY 27, 2005**

In response to the Office Action dated January 27, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on April 27, 2005, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. Although Applicants believe that no fees are due in connection with this response other than the fee indicated in the separate accompanying request for extension of time, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/CRUI/0027/WBP for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. **Remarks** begin on page 8 of this paper.